Tribal/Interior Budget Council
Economic Development Subcommittee Meeting
OIED Updates
November 18, 2026
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

About the OIED's Division of Economic Development (DED): *"Resources to promote Tribal economic growth and vitality"*

- **Who We Are:** The DED supports Tribal economic growth by providing technical assistance, training, funding opportunities, and other resources to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native entrepreneurs. Through our programs and partnerships, we help strengthen Tribal economies, support entrepreneurship and business development, preserve Native languages, and expand tourism opportunities in Indian Country.

Tribal Tourism/NATIVE Act updates

- **Tribal Tourism Grant Program (TTGP):** Supports projects that expand Tribal tourism capacity, increase travel to Tribal destinations, and promote self-determination towards sustainable economic growth and community benefits. TTGP implements the NATIVE Act by strengthening destination positioning, showcasing the Tribal culture, and enhancing visitor experiences. Solicitation anticipated in early 2027!
    - FY25 Funds Released: 9 Awards in September 2026
    - FY26 Funds Available: $2.75 million estimated

- **NATIVE Act Cooperative Agreement (NACA):** Supports George Washington University, the selected awardee, to provide specific Tribal tourism technical assistance to TTGP and the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations applicants, which is comprised of Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. In fulfillment of the NATIVE Act (25 U.S.C. 4353(d)), the awardee will deliver targeted capacity-building support to increase visitation at tribal tourism operations and expand cultural heritage tourism and economic development in Tribal and Native Hawaiian communities. They will provide tools, strategies, and expertise to enhance and grow tourism activities and destinations. Current Awardee will be continued in 2027 with FY26 funds.
    - FY25 Funds Released: 1 Award in September 2026
    - FY26 Funds Available: $1.5 million estimated

- **The OIED is supporting the FICOR's Tribal Engagement Subgroup in the development and launch of quarterly Tribal forum events**. The Tribal Engagement Subgroup leads Tribal outreach to support implementation of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act. The OIED is a member of the Tribal Engagement Subgroup.
    - The EXPLORE Act calls for enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities, including the development of new and expanded Federal authorities, recreation attractions, and

data monitoring tools that could be leveraged to support and advance tourism on Native lands.
    - The Tribal forums will provide a means to share information, identify Tribal priorities, and facilitate an open dialogue with Tribes. The Tribal forums will also highlight opportunities to support Tribal tourism through the EXPLORE Act.
    - The forums are slated to begin in early FY 2027.

- **NATIVE Act Co-leadership with the U.S. Department of Commerce**: On behalf of the DOI and pursuant to the NATIVE Act, the OIED is leading quarterly NATIVE Act co-leadership meetings with representatives from the U.S Department of Commerce. The purpose of the meetings is to identify opportunities to integrate Federal assets for Tribal tourism capacity-building and track progress.

Indian Business Incubators Program (IBIP)

Supports business incubators that provide Native entrepreneurs and businesses with individually tailored services, mentorship, training, and access to capital. IBIP helps entrepreneurs overcome the barriers of starting and sustaining businesses in tribal communities, while promoting business growth and job creation. A Report to Congress is mandated biennially. Current Awardees will be continued in 2027 with FY26 funds.

- FY25 Funds Released: 8 Awards in September 2026
- FY26 Funds Available: $3 million estimated

Living Languages Grant Program (LLGP)

Supports the preservation and revitalization of Native languages and cultural heritage by funding programs that expand language instruction and strengthen Tribal capacity. LLGP funds language teacher certification and the development of technology-based resources, media, and language learning materials. Solicitation anticipated in early 2027!

- FY25 Funds Released: 20 Awards in September 2026
- FY26 Funds Available: $5 million estimated

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) The OIED will periodically facilitate the release of CDS funds through grants, cooperative agreements, and 638 contracts.

Indian Loan Guarantee Program (U.S.C. §1481 *et seq*, 25 CFR Part 103)

- **Mission:** To help Indian tribes and individuals establish and expand Indian-owned businesses, and to encourage self –sufficiency, Congress passed the Indian Financing Act of 1974.
- The Act was established to reduce the disparity between business capital available to Indian and non-Indian businesses.
- Managed by the OIED's Division of Capital Investment (DCI)

The **Indian Loan Guarantee and Insurance & Interest Subsidy Program (ILGP)** provides up to a 90% federal guarantee or insurance on commercial loans made to American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) individuals, tribes, and tribally owned businesses. Established under the Indian Financing Act of 1974, the program helps borrowers access financing with reasonable terms while reducing lender risk

Through ILGP, the Division of Capital Investment (DCI) helps American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes and individuals get reasonable interest rates and overcome challenges to conventional financing, while also reducing the risk to lenders with the financial support of the federal government.

Key Program Features & Eligibility

• Coverage & Limits: Guarantees or insures up to 90% of unpaid principal and accrued interest. Guaranteed loans cap out at $500,000 for individuals (higher for tribes and enterprises), while loan insurance targets loans of $250,000 or less.

• Eligible Uses & Equity: Funds can be used for operating capital, equipment, inventory, business acquisitions, refinancing, and construction. Projects must benefit a reservation or tribal service area, and borrowers typically must supply 20% equity.

• Borrower Criteria: Available to enrolled AI/AN individuals, tribal governments, or businesses at least 51% owned by AI/AN individuals or tribes. Applicants apply directly through participating commercial lenders or CDFIs rather than filling out government forms.

• Restrictions: Ineligible ventures include casinos, tobacco/vape shops, high-ABV alcohol producers, and prostitution-related businesses. Note: This commercial program differs from HUD's residential Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program.

DCI Guaranteed Loan Portfolio

Total Number of Guaranteed Loans	1,224
Total Amount of Guaranteed Loans	$ 2,406,250,545.20
Average Guaranteed Loan Amount	$ 1,965,890.97

Closed	$ 1,068,390,502.34	45%
Active	$ 921,908,134.53	38%
Default	$ 142,022,482.33	6%
De-Obligated	$ 152,599,426.00	6%
Approved	$ 102,330,000.00	4%
Application L Application Und	$ 19,000,000.00	1%

